from India during the last three years, year-wise;

Year	Qty.	Value
	in MTs	Rs, lakhs
1983-84 (Prov) .	27920	3340
1984-85 ,, .	31744	4139
1985-86 .	35400	4489

(b) The prevailing rate of Beef (Buffalo) in India is between Rs. 10 to 11 per Kg. The International rate for frozen beef is understood to be of the order of $800 per M. T. and it approximates to the rates prevailing in India at the current exchange rates.

Export of leather

1402. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity and the value of leather exported from India during the last three years, year-wise and its percentage share in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): The estimated value of finished and semi-finished leather exports from India during the last three years has been as under:

(Value in million Rs.)		
1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
2,489.21	3,576.85	3,372·67

(Source : Council for Leather Exports)

Data in respect of quantity of all varieties of leather exports' is not available. The share of Indian leather exports in the international market is estimated at a little ever 8 per cent.

Credit requirements of Banks

1403. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of an analysis made by the Reserve Bank of India, it has come to the conclusion that the credit requirements of banks would go up with the expected pick-up in industrial production in the second half of 1986-87; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are being made by Govrnment to make available the required credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI). (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there is generally a seasonal increase in the credit requirement during the second half of the financial year. The important measures taken to enable the banks to meet all genuine credit requirements are:

(0 release of Rs. 496 crores of impounded cash balances of banks in two equal instalments .on November 22, 1986 and January 31, 1987; (ii) continuing to calculate the limit for export credit re-fin'ance at 100 per cent of the increase in export credit over the monthly average level of credit in 1984. The concession of not bringing forward the base to the average level of credit in 1985 would amount to an access *to* refinance *ot* Rs. 200 crores more than would have been the case had the base been brought forward to 1985; (iii) hitherto banks were to seek prior sanction of the Reserve Bank before utilising the discretionary refinance facility. With a view to providing more expeditious access to this facility, all licensed scheduled commercial banks; excluding regional rural banks, are now permitted to draw discretionary finance, without prior sanction by the Reserve Bank upto an amount equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the banks' average deposits in 1985-86, at a rate of interest of 14 percent per annum, for a period not exceeding 14 days provided there in a gap of 14

(Jays during which there has been no borrowings under the discretionary refinance facility.

Removal of regional disparity in minimum wages

1404. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have recent ly drawn up guidelines to remove regional disparity relating to minimum wages;

(b) if so, what are fee details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government pro pose to take for the effective implementa tion of the guidelines in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Central Government has circulated draft guidelines on regional minimum wages to all the State Governments!Union Territories on 6th May, 1986. As per these guide-lnes the entire country is proposed to be sub-divided into six regions, it is proposed that the regional minimum wages should be fixed employment-wise for selected employments within the region. The draft guidelines are expected to be finalised soon based on the comments of the State Governments. These guidelines are of an advisory nature and have to be implemented by the States. The matter is being persued with the States.

Agreement between export import Bank of India and IFC

1405. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Export-Import Bank of India has signed Or propose to sign an agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFQ an affiliate of World Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agreement would be for $ 15 m. and would benefit small and medium enterprises in India; 'and

(d) if so, what are the salient features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI); (a) to (d) International Finance Corporation, Washington IFC(W) has approved an investment in the form of an Agency Credit Line (ACL) of US$ 15 million to be managed by the Export-Import (Exim,) Bank of India for financing of small and medium-size export-oriented private eater-prises in India. An agreement in this regard has been signed between Exim Bank and IFC (W).

The IFC(W) funds would be used to finance mainly import costs of the project and Exim Bank would make available matching funds to meet local costs. In this way Exim Bank will be able to offer total financial package to Export-Oriented Units.

The IFC(W) loans to the borrowers will carry an interest rete of *2* per cent over 6 months LIBOUR, a Commitment fee of 0.5 per cent on undisbursed balances and one time front-end-fee at the rate of 1 per cent of loan amowit. The IFC will pay Exim Bank, in return for its services, an agency fee on sliding scale ranging from 0.25 per cent to 0.85 per cent on average outstanding loan balances payable on a semi-annual basis in arrears.

Permission to float bonds by Andhra Pradesh

1406. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA-KRISHNA: Will the Minister ,of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Government of India to permit the State